

REMARKS

Claims 1-17, 19-22, and 25-30 are pending in this application, with Claims 1-17, 19-22, and 25-29 having been previously allowed. Claim 30 has been added to provide Applicants with a more complete scope of protection. Claims 1, 9, 17, and 21 have been amended to define still more clearly what Applicants regard as their invention. Claims 1, 17, 19, 21, and 27-29 are in independent form. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

Applicants note that the changes to Claim 1 include clarifying the aspect of the invention directed to the record control means; the changes to Claim 17 clarify the aspect of the invention directed to the “wherein” clause of the distributing means; and the changes to Claim 21 clarify the aspect of the invention directed to the recording step. Applicants submit that all the independent claims, and their dependent claims (including new Claim 30), are allowable at least for reasons similar to the Reasons For Allowance attached to the Notice of Allowance dated March 12, 2003.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and the allowance of the present application.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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